



**Department of Justice  
U.S. Attorney's Office  
Southern District of Texas**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**THREE-TIME CONVICTED FELON CONVICTED YET AGAIN**

BROWNSVILLE, TX – Jose Casas, Jr., 48, of Brownsville, Texas, was convicted of being a felon in possession of a firearm. The conviction came following a bench trial before United States District Judge Andrew Hanen, who has ordered a pre-sentence investigative report be prepared in advance of sentencing on August 28, 2006, and remanded the defendant into the custody of the U.S. Marshal.

Casas, a state parolee, was arrested on September 30, 2005, at his residence on E. Fronton Street in Brownsville by detectives of the Brownsville Police Department (BPD), after detectives found a .44 caliber revolver hidden under a dresser in the bedroom. Detectives were led to the residence by an anonymous tip. As a convicted felon, Casas is prohibited by federal law from possessing a firearm. At the time of his arrest, Casas admitted owning the items.

Agents of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) testified that Casas was previously convicted of the state felony offenses of Burglary of a Building in 1985, Delivery of Marihuana in 1987, and Burglary of a Habitation in 1991. Casas's last felony conviction resulted in his being sentenced to serve 25 years in state prison in 1991. He served 12 years in a state prison before being release on parole. At his sentencing in August for this federal conviction, Casas faces a minimum of 15 years of imprisonment up to life, without parole, a maximum fine of \$250,000, and a 3-year term of supervised release following the completion of his prison sentence.

Casas' prosecution is part of the Department of Justice's nation wide gun violence reduction initiative called Project Safe Neighborhood (PSN), which partners federal, state and local law enforcement in a cooperative effort to target for federal prosecution felons who possess firearms or ammunition in violation of federal law and through investigation, prosecution and incarceration to remove the violent offender and promote safer neighborhoods.

This case was investigated by the Brownsville Police Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, and is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Oscar Ponce.

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